REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all of the claims pending in the present application and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Young et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,990,116). Applicant traverses the rejections of claims 1-7 at least based on the following reasons. A brief description of Young is as follows.

Young is directed to a method and system for increasing the overall network throughput over a wireless local area network (WLAN). Specifically, the dynamic switching between the Distributed Coordination Function (DCF) and Point Coordination Function IEEE 802.11 access modes is determined according to the load conditions over the WLAN in a method and system. Stations and access points within a WLAN monitor conditions within the network to determine which access mechanism is most optimum for the current load conditions. Some factors to consider in determining the load conditions include but are not limited to the number of transmissions, number of receptions, and number of collisions. *See Abstract*

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that Young does not disclose or suggest at least, 1) "verifying whether data remains in a queue of a point coordinator (PC) after a contention-free period (CFP) is terminated," and 2) "if a result of the verification indicates that data remains in the queue, transmitting the data remaining in the queue of the PC before entering a contention mode," as recited in claim 1. The Examiner cites Fig. 6, the Abstract, col. 8, lines 56-67, and col. 9, lines 1-6 of Young as allegedly satisfying the first above-quoted feature of claim 1. With respect to the second feature quoted above, the Examiner acknowledges that Young does not disclose this feature, however the Examiner alleges, "Young et al. teach that the length of the contention-free period can vary depending on the number of packets in the queue

which suggests the emptying of the queue during the contention-free mode and before entering the contention mode," as recited on page 3 of the Office Action.

With respect to the first feature of claim 1 quoted above, Applicant submits that, even if, *arguendo*, Young discloses verifying whether data remains in a queue of a point coordinator, there does not appear to be any teaching or suggestion of that particular operation being performed after a contention free period is terminated.

Yet further, with respect to the second feature quoted above, the Examiner alleges that the teaching by Young that the length of the contention-free period can vary depending upon a number of packets in a queue, suggests the emptying of the queue during the contention-free mode and before entering the contention mode. In response, first, Applicant submits that the teaching by Young that a length of a contention-free period can vary depending on a number of packets does not necessarily suggest that a queue is emptied before entering a contention mode. The above teaching of Young could suggest, for example, that a system attempts to facilitate the transmission of data by entering a contention mode while packets are left in a queue instead of waiting for the emptying of a queue. The Examiner has made an unsupportable leap by alleging that Young suggests emptying a queue simply because Young teaches that the length of a contention-free period can vary depending on the number of packets in the queue.

Yet even further, Applicant submits that the Examiner's argument clearly shows that the above quoted features of claim 1 are not satisfied by Young. Since the operation of verifying the remaining data in a queue is performed after a contention-free period, the operation of transmitting remaining data that is left in the queue of the PC is performed after a contention-free period. Thus, even if, *arguendo*, Young suggests emptying a queue, there is no teaching or suggestion of transmitting the remaining data in a queue after a contention-free period because,

according to the Examiner, Young allegedly suggests emptying a queue during the contention-free mode.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Young.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-7 are patentable at least by virtue of their direct or indirect dependency from independent claim 1.

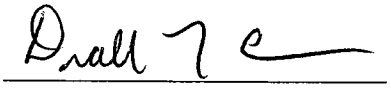
Further, with respect to claim 2, Applicant submits that Young does not disclose or suggest at least, "if the result of the verification indicates that no data remains in the queue, entering the contention mode," as recited in claim 2. The Examiner cites col. 8, lines 16-19 of Young, as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted feature of claim 2 since Young discloses that the length of the contention-free period can vary within a contention-free period repetition interval depending on the load over the network. In response, Applicant submits that the dependence of a contention-free period on the load over the network does not necessarily relate to a verification of no data remaining in a queue. In fact, Young specifically describes that some factors that are considered in determining the load conditions include the number of transmissions, number of receptions, and number of collisions, however nowhere does Young disclose or suggest a factor of whether data remains in a queue of a point coordinator (PC) after a contention-free period (CFP) is terminated. Claim 2 specifically indicates when a contention mode will be entered, and that is when a verification operation indicates that no data remains in a queue. Nowhere does Young disclose or suggest the feature of claim 2.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-7 are patentably distinguishable over Young.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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